

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05575 231915Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01 IO-13 /095 W
-----107668 240805Z /14

R 231839Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9495
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 05575

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, UR, PEPR
SUBJECT: RUMORS OF BREZHNEV TRAVEL

REF: (A) MOSCOW 2894, (B) MOSCOW 2704, (C) MOSCOW 3250

1. IN ADDITION TO THE QUESTION OF TRAVEL TO BONN
(SEPTEL, NOTAL), BREZHNEV'S INCREASED PUBLIC EXPOSURE IN
RECENT WEEKS (REFTELS) SEEMS TO HAVE GENERATED A NUMBER
OF RUMORS ABOUT HIS POSSIBLE TRAVEL ELSEWHERE. AN
INDIAN DIPLOMAT TELLS US THAT BREZHNEV MAY VISIT INDIA
BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. THE FRENCH APPARENTLY HAVE
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HEARD THAT HE WILL GO TO HANOI (PARIS 7588) AND LOCALLY
IN MOSCOW THERE ARE QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS POSSIBLE
ATTENDANCE AT THE SSOD IN MAY, A RUMOR WHICH WE DISCOUNT.
MFA'S TIMERBAYEV MOST EFFECTIVELY SCOTCHED THE SSOD
RUMOR WHEN HE TOLD THE UK POL COUNS THAT THE SOVIETS
CONSIDER THE SSOD AS A PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR THE
WDC, AND BREZHNEV DOES NOT ATTEND PREPARATORY CONFERENCES.

2. WE DOUBT THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE REALLY DONE ANY
SUBSTANTIAL PLANNING OF BREZHNEV'S LONG-TERM TRAVEL
PROGRAM. INDEED, WE DOUBT THAT THE BONN TRIP HAS
BEEN DECIDED YET, AND THAT IS PROBABLY THE FIRST ONE
THAT MUST BE DECIDED. ALL THIS LOOKS TO US LIKE A CASE
OF THE SOVIETS PLANTING THE IDEA OF SUCH TRAVEL TO
REINFORCE THE IMAGE OF A HEALTHY BREZHNEV. THE FACT
THAT HE COULD EVEN CONSIDER AN EXTENSIVE TRAVEL PROGRAM
IN THE NEAR FUTURE ADDS TO THE OVERALL IMPRESSION THE
SOVIETS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GIVE OF LEONID IL'ICH
BACK IN THE SADDLE AND IN CHARGE ONCE AGAIN. TOON

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Message Attributes

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